

Albert W. Sullivan House  
4575 South Lake Park Avenue  
Chicago  
Cook County  
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1006

HABS  
ILL,  
16-CHIG,  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## ALBERT W. SULLIVAN HOUSE

Location: 4575 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner: Elsie Rosner, et al.

Present Use: Four small apartments.

Statement of Significance: Said to be the best small residence design of the firm of Adler and Sullivan, the building was Louis Sullivan's home in the 1890's /Hugh Morrison, Louis Sullivan (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1935), p. 133/. It was recognized in February 1960 by the Commission on Chicago Architectural Landmarks as a Chicago Architectural Landmark.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners (chain of title): Legal description of the property: North 23 feet of Sublot 76 and south 4 feet of Sublot 77 of Block 2 in Kenwood Subdivision in the southwest fractional 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 2-38-14.

The following is an abstract of the chain of title found in Book 320 B, Cook County Recorder's Office and is supplemented by material in: Drury, John. Old Chicago Houses. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1941. pp. 489-493.

Louis Sullivan was commissioned by his older brother Albert W. Sullivan to design his home. Albert purchased the property from Martha B. Holden on May 5, 1891 (Document 1463037). Louis lived in the house from 1892-1896, during the time of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Albert then occupied it until 1905 /Drury, op. cit., p. 489/. The house was sold by Mary S. Sullivan on March 17, 1914 to Elsa R. Strauss (Document 5377456). Since that time the house has had many owners, the last listing being Elsie Rosner, et al., July 19, 1963 (Document 18858506).

2. Date of erection: 1892.
3. Architect: Adler and Sullivan; some details attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright /Frank Lloyd Wright, An Autobiography

(New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1932), p. 106<sup>7</sup>.  
Perhaps some work by George Grant Elmslie /D. Gebbard,  
"Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie," Journal of  
the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XIX (May,  
1960), p. 63/.

4. Alterations and additions: The interior was remodeled recently, following a fire, to provide several small apartments (date unknown). In the process, most of the interior ornament, except that in the vestibule, was destroyed. The exterior ornament remains.

B. Bibliography:

"Architect Fashions Sanctuary," Chicago Tribune (August 31, 1961).

Photograph of doorway. Clippings in the Library of the Chicago Historical Society.

Bush-Brown, Albert. Louis Sullivan. New York: George Braziller, Inc., 1960. p. 22, Pl. 41.

Connely, Willard. Louis Sullivan As He Lived. New York: Horizon Press, 1960. Photograph Pl. 28.  
General material.

Drury, John. Old Chicago Houses. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1941. pp. 489-493, photograph p. 491.

Gebbard, D. "Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XIX (May, 1960). p. 63.

Gutheim, Frederick (ed.). Frank Lloyd Wright on Architecture. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941. p. 177.

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. In the Nature of Materials. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1948. pp. 12, 13.

Manson, Grant Carpenter. Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1958. pp. 29-30, photographs p. 29.

Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1935. pp. 133, 302, Pl. 43.

Western Architect, Vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (January, 1925).  
photograph Pl. 4.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. An Autobiography. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1932. p. 106.

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka  
Historian  
National Park Service  
August, 1963

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. This is one of Sullivan's finest small-house designs. Though the interiors have been entirely altered, the exterior presents a well detailed ornamental facade.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 21'-6" front; narrow rectangular house; two stories on a partially elevated basement.
2. Foundations: Brick and stone.
3. Wall construction: Smooth-faced cut stone on the west (front). The stone is carefully coursed, alternating narrow courses (5" high) with wide courses (12", 16", 17" and 24" high). Brick south and east (rear) walls, party walls on north side.
4. Porches: Leading to the main (west) entrance is a long flight of steps; the stone walls at the sides are carved with flat, interlaced circle pattern.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Heavy oak flush door 3'-10" wide, iron grill. Semi-circular arch over door with typical foliated in-filling ornament.
  - b. Windows: The one first-floor window on the west front is tri-partite, slightly recessed. Two colonnettes with basket-shaped, foliated capitals abut the window partitions. There is a bay window on the second floor, sheathed in ornamented copper.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Roof not visible.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: There is a substantial cornice, copper-sheathed, with brackets at the corners; the fascia is a series of vertical rectangles with patterned surfaces.

- C. Description of Interiors: the interior, now divided into many small apartments, is entirely changed except for the vestibule.

Vestibule: Mosaic floor, plaster walls, coved plaster cornice with typical foliated ornament in low relief. Plaster ceiling.

- D. Site:

General setting and orientation: House faces west on narrow level lot, set back about 10' from sidewalk; front yard enclosed within simple, low iron fence, with square palings riveted to curving cross straps.

Prepared by Osmund Overby  
Supervisory Architect  
National Park Service  
August, 1963

ALBERT W. SULLIVAN HOUSE

An addendum to  
Albert W. Sullivan House  
475 Lake Park Avenue  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois  
in HABS Catalog  
Chicago and Nearby Illinois Areas (1966)

The Albert W. Sullivan House has been demolished in April 1970.  
"Ornamentation from the doorway, bay windows and cornice were taken  
to Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, for inclusion in a  
permanent exhibit there on Sullivan and his work."

Source: Unidentified clipping in HABS files.

Addendum prepared by  
Christine L. St. Lawrence  
National Park Service  
August 1970